

United Methodist Herald

December 2024/January 2025



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December Worship

December 1, 2024

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Cast of Christmas: Zechariah

Luke 1:5-12, 21-25

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

December 8, 2024

The Cast of Christmas: John

Luke 3:1-6

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

December 15, 2024

The Cast of Christmas: Mary

Luke 1:39-55

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

December 22, 2024

The Cast of Christmas: The Stablehand

Luke 2:1-7

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

(See Advent and Christmas Eve worship schedule on page 2)

December 29, 2024

The Lord Is Come

Isaiah 40:9-11

Pastor Richard Waters



Special December Christmas Events and Christmas Eve Worship

**Wednesday, December 4 - 6:30 pm
Hanging of the Greens**

**Wednesday, December 18 - 4:00 pm, musical prelude 3:45 pm
Advent Service of Peace and Healing
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Pastor Donna Dempewolf and Pastor David Weeks**

**Wednesday, December 18 - 6:30 pm
Children's Christmas Pageant**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24

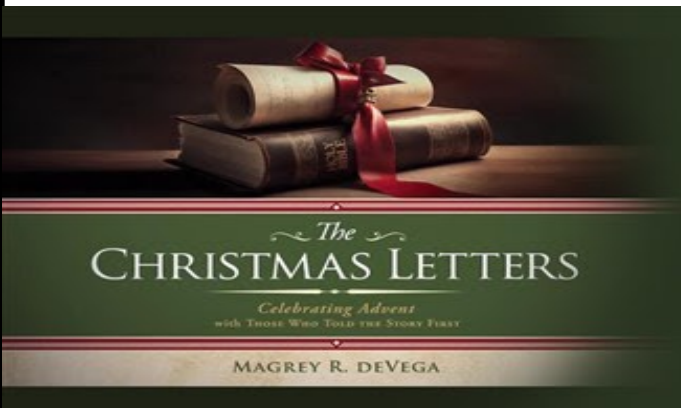
4:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship (nursery available, service livestreamed)

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

Advent Study with Bishop Lanette: The Christmas Letters

Tuesdays through Dec. 17, online 7:00-8:15 pm. Participate in the 2024 Advent Study led by Bishop Lanette. We will read and discuss "The Christmas Letters" by Magrey DeVega. Now is a good time to order copies of the book. To register: <https://mnumc-reg.brapp.com/AdventChristmasLetters>



January Worship

**January 5 - Celebration of Holy Communion
*Detours***

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

January 12

The John Movement

Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Pastor Donna Dempewolf

January 19

Guest Preacher Cynthia Wilson

President NAACP, Minneapolis Branch

January 26

Nehemiah: Cry of the Soul

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Pastor Donna Dempewolf



Message from the Pastor

Darkness

Stores are playing “Joy to the World,” Starbucks is serving Gingerbread Chai Lattes, and trees are aglow with radiant lights. We are rushing full force toward Christmas. Soon, we will be lighting candles and hearing John declare, “*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.*” (John 1:5)

Our towns and cities are filled with images of bustle and brightness. Yet the coming of the Christ child does not occur amid a splash of artificial light but in the stillness of night’s darkness.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the season of Advent—the four weeks leading up to Christmas—coincides with some of the longest nights of the year. We often refer to darkness in negative terms. We think of the darkness of terror in our world—in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine, and Sudan. There is also the darkness of anguish in our lives: depression, addiction, angst, illness, trauma. Such terror and anguish weigh heavily on our hearts.

Advent is not a time to artificially light the darkness but to trust that even in its depths, God is present. God is with those who experience acts of terror and trauma, God is with those in the midst of a raging storm, God is with those who engage in acts of compassion, who march for justice, who seek to tread more gently upon our planet. God is with those who wrestle with their own dark nights of the soul. The season of Advent is a time of germination, where even in the darkness, God’s thrill of hope begins to take root.

On Christmas Eve, we will hear Isaiah’s words: “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined*” (Isaiah 9:2). We will welcome the Christ child, Emmanuel—God with us—trusting that Christ is present even in the darkest corners of our lives.

Our worship services will be held at 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Consider attending one or both of these services, and invite a family member, neighbor, or friend to join you.

With peace,
Donna

Coffee with the Pastor
Tuesday, January 21st
1:00-2:30 pm
The Hideaway



Cynthia Wilson, President of the NAACP Minneapolis Chapter, will be our guest speaker during worship on Sunday, January 19. Cynthia is a renowned community leader who has chosen to live in North Minneapolis for over 30 years, dedicating herself to building and revitalizing her community.

In addition to her impactful work, Cynthia is a person of deep faith and an active member of Unity Temple Church of God in Christ.

Following the service, Cynthia will lead an adult forum to share insights about her role with the NAACP in the Reception Room.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful opportunity to hear and learn from such an inspiring leader.



NUMC WELCOME STATEMENT

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and, as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, race, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, socio-economic status, or age. We unreservedly support and affirm the full inclusion of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities in all facets of ministry at Northfield UMC, including ordination and marriage. Following Christ's example, we open our hearts, minds, and doors to welcome all who come to us in God's grace.

NUMC Breakthrough Prayer



Northfield United Methodist Church Worship. Devotion. Compassion. Justice.

Open our hearts, O God, to your presence already at work in our lives. Break through any barrier in our hearts separating us from you and others. By your Spirit, show us possibilities beyond what we can imagine for ourselves and our church. Make us ready; our hands are yours. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Super Wednesday Community Meals

Food for the soul and the stomach! 5:30-6:30 on Wednesdays during the program year.

December 18 - Annual Christmas Dinner

Roast Beef
Potatoes
Carrots
Pear Salad
Dinner Roll

Watch our Facebook page and our website for future menus and any cancelations due to weather. (NOTE: NUMC follows the policy of Northfield Public Schools for weather closures.)

**No Super Wednesday meal
December 25th and January 1st**



FINANCE UPDATE

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving!

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Authorization forms are available on our website northfieldumc.org or by emailing northfieldumc@gmail.com.

How to make tithes and offerings

You can make your tithes and offerings other ways as well:

1. Donate online using a credit card, by clicking on the GiveMN tab on the church website northfieldumc.org.
2. Drop a check in the offering basket during in person worship.
3. Mail a check to: Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple St., Northfield, MN 55057

General Fund October 2024 contributions \$18,957.66
General Fund October 2023 contributions \$22,914.66

General Fund YTD 2024 contributions \$248,513.66
General Fund YTD 2023 contributions \$282,529.60

Treasurer's Report for October 2024

Summary:

General Fund

- The checking account balance of \$48,763.27 at the end of October was \$7,420.12 more than at the end of September. August, September and October apportionments have not been paid.
- Monthly Offering Income for October was \$18,957.66 and Other Income Totals were \$2,826.07 which yields a General Fund Income Total of \$21,783.73.
- Monthly Expense Totals for October were \$34,903.38.
- YTD Expenses are \$66,695.46 more than YTD Income.
- Fourth quarter income is expected to increase as members fulfill their annual giving goals.

Physical Plant

- Income total for October was \$13,844.60.
- YTD Actual Income was \$144,290.66 and YTD Actual Expenses were \$131,192.24 which leaves a positive balance of \$19,393.42.

Endowment Funds

- Considering receipts and disbursements, the combined endowment funds show a YTD market gain of \$29,660.21 (about 7.4%) through October 2024.

Details:

General Fund

The checking account balance of \$48,763.27 at the end of October was \$7,420.12 more than the end of September balance of \$41,343.15. Due to cash flow, August, September and October apportionments have not been paid. Monthly apportionments are \$4,645.58.

Monthly Offering Income for October was \$18,957.66. Year to date (YTD) Offering Income was \$248,513.66 which is \$34,015.94 less than YTD Last Year and \$84,819.68 less than a straight-line YTD Budget of \$333,333.34. Other Income Totals of \$2,826.07 came from Interest Income, Super Wednesday Meal Proceeds and Regular Facility Usage. Thus, General Fund Income Total for October was \$21,783.73. General Fund YTD Income was \$268,150.49 which is \$46,889.84 less than YTD Last Year and \$79,974.53 less than a straight-line YTD Budget of \$348,125.02. As noted in the April report, weekly offering amounts have decreased since more members are doing quarterly or end-of-year contributions. This change in giving patterns makes it difficult to manage cash flow. Fourth quarter income is expected to increase as members fulfill their annual giving goals.

Monthly Expense Totals for October were \$34,903.38. YTD Actual Expense Totals were \$334,845.95 which is \$27,199.66 less than YTD Last Year but \$37,394.79 more than a straight-line YTD Budget of \$297,451.16. YTD we are \$66,695.46 in the red, compared to \$50,673.86 we budgeted to be in the black.

Physical Plant

Income total for October was \$13,844.60, which includes: Support from General Fund of \$13,164.60 and \$680.00 donations to the Building Fund. YTD Actual Income was \$144,290.66 which includes: \$110,761.99 Support from General Fund for Physical Plant; \$6,295.00 from contributions of to the Building Fund; and \$33,528.67 disbursement from the Building Maintenance Endowment made up of an Annual Interest Income of \$21,928.67 and \$11,600.00 for the increase in Gap Insurance (wind and hail damage beyond regular insurance coverage). YTD Actual Expenses were \$131,192.24 which leaves a positive balance of \$19,393.42.

Endowment Funds

At the end of December 2023 these funds totaled \$941,047.78 which includes \$334,802.54 that we owe ourselves from the last building campaign. The Undesignated Endowment fund received \$127,100.20 from the Anne B. Mayer Charitable Fund in August. The YTD Balance at the end of October was \$1,039,514.90. A 6% disbursement on the balance in the funds as of the April 30th statement, a total of \$36,602.88, was taken in May. An additional \$11,600.00 from the Building Maintenance fund was also taken in May to cover the unexpected fourfold increase in gap insurance. In October \$20,000.00 was taken from the Undesignated fund to supplement the checking account balance due to less than expected monthly offering income. Considering receipts and disbursements, the combined endowment funds show a YTD market gain of \$29,660.21 (about 7.4%) through October 2024.

**Looking for more family ministries information?
Contact the church office at info@northfieldumc.org.**

Kids Creating Community in Christ (KC3) and Children's Church are continuing to meet every week. We are learning about our relationship with God and our neighbors and having lots of fun with the help of lots of great volunteers.

Sundays:

Children's Church (5th grade and under)

Children's Church continues to meet every Sunday morning during worship that the public schools are in session. Children's Church is geared towards pre-k through elementary age disciples and are dismissed from the Sunday worship service at 10:00 am for a worship service of their own. We worship, read scripture, talk, sing and share in community. For more information contact Gregory Ennis at Gregory.ennis@gmail.com.

December 15 - Christmas Sing

Children's Church will have a Christmas sing and the young ones will get to dress up in pageant outfits. Anyone is welcome to participate that day, even if they haven't been to Children's Church before.

No Children's Church on December 1st and 29th due to school breaks.

Super Wednesdays

3:30-5:30 pm - KC3 (Kids Creating Community Through Christ) is our Wednesday afternoon youth program for K-5th grade. We meet every Super Wednesday right after school until 5:30 (ending just in time for community dinner). Transportation from all local schools is available free of charge. To sign up or for more information email Gregory Ennis at Gregory.ennis@gmail.com.

5:30-6:30 pm - Community Meal (ALL are welcome - free will donation)

6:30-7:30 pm - Youth Group (6th-12th grade) meet in the Youth room for fellowship, games, and deeper exploration of what it means to follow Jesus. To sign up or for more information, contact Kristen Twitchell at ktwitchell@northfieldumc.org or youth@northfieldumc.org.

No KC3 on December 25, January 1 and 22 due to school breaks.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - December 4, 11 and 18

KC3 will rehearse for our Christmas pageant during KC3.

Children's Christmas Pageant - Wednesday, December 18

Our performance will be after community dinner at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

SALT: Rice County Toys for Tots Collection

Northfield United Methodist Church is a Rice County Toys for Tots donation site! Donate a new toy to help bring holiday joy to less fortunate children living in Rice County. Last year 774 children on assistance from Rice County Social Services received a toy. Toys are distributed to children between the ages of 6 months to 14 years.

What: New, unwrapped toy(s)

When: Collecting through Wednesday, December 11

Where: Boxes will be located in the NUMC narthex and south entrance.





Notes from Isaiah Northfield Post-Election Strategy Session 11/14/24

By Rev. Clay Oglesbee

Initially, Isaiah Organizer Kathryn Lozada shared personal responses to the elections and invited others to share in small groups. She reminded us that building a “beloved community” of justice and inclusion in Minnesota is a year-around, all-the-time commitment, no matter the current political map.

What Isaiah and Supporters Accomplished in Minnesota in 2023-2024 Legislative Biennium: voters’ rights increased and expanded, affordable transportation in the metro, 100% clean energy by 2030, paid family and medical leave, driver’s licenses for all regardless of immigration status, \$1 billion investment for affordable housing, red flag outlaw to limit gun violence, statewide commuter rail, raising childcare reimbursement rates, and other measures.

Table Discussions allowed participants to share thoughts on how they came to the meeting, and how they leaned into their values during the election season. Some spoke of donations and organizing, or speaking with friends and family. Others spoke of regret that they did not do more. Voting was very strong, but some were concerned that Northfield and campuses are “an echo chamber”, even in Rice County.

Minnesota State Representative (58A District) Purcell addressed the gathering regarding the elections. She said she is the last DFL representative in MN in a rural district. She described the evenly split House (67-67), and early efforts to keep it productive. Representative Purcell spoke of the active initiatives and legislative actions of the 2024. She sees this legislative session as focused on protecting the actions of the past two years.

Trainings may be offered in areas like (1) “deep listening” with neighbors in wider community as a foundation of people-centered democracy, (2) research visit training to engage local decision-makers about housing, climate and transportation priorities, and finally—(3) immigrant solidarity training.

Proposed Isaiah Path Through 2025—Plans so far:

- Weekly Isaiah Southern MN Legislative Co-governance Zooms with partner legislators
- Revenue Rally at MN Capitol on Wed., 1/29, for an Abundant Moral Budget
- Building the Future Lobby Day at the MN Capitol in mid-February/early March on housing, economy and job
- Northfield “in district” meeting with legislators in early April?
- Earth Day Action and “day without cars” on 4/25 at the Capitol
- May - stay nimble for the end of the legislative session
- December 13, 2025: Isaiah-wide convention to prepare for 2026

To learn more about and/or join the NUMC-Isaiah Team, contact Evelyn Burry, Team Leader (evelynburry@hotmail.com; 507-581-4684).

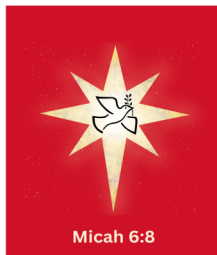
Dismantling Racism Team (DRT)



Monday, January 20, 2025, is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This federal holiday celebrates the achievements of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. First introduced just four days after his assassination on April 4, 1968, the legislation establishing the holiday didn’t get passed until 15 years later. It was signed into law by President Reagan in 1983, and took an additional 17 years to be fully recognized in all 50 states. In 1994, under President Clinton, it became the only federal holiday dedicated to volunteerism, after Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act. This act encourages Americans to observe the day “with acts of civic work and community service” in honor of King’s legacy.

If you’re looking for a way to volunteer for a project related to civil rights, you can do so without even leaving the house by helping the Smithsonian Museum transcribe the Freedmen’s Bureau records. Visit <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/freedmens-bureau-records> for more information. Or if you’d prefer to recognize the holiday by learning more about the Civil Rights Movement, consider visiting the [Coretta Scott King Rose Gallery](#), an immersive digital experience hosted by The King Center.

Northfield UMC will celebrate MLK Day by inviting Cynthia Wilson, NAACP President, to preach on January 19. She will also lead an adult forum after worship. Cynthia has lived with her family in North Minneapolis and worked in various roles for the City of Minneapolis for more than 30 years. She has held several positions within the Minneapolis NAACP Branch, working to hold systems accountable for the injustices she has seen. Please join us at worship and afterwards to learn from this dynamic leader.



**Methodists
Investing in
Care and
Action for the
HolyLand**



Olive Oil for Sale

Palestinian organic, fair trade,
extra virgin olive oil.

500 ml/16.5 oz for \$20.00

750 ml/25.4 oz. for \$25.00

Now available in the church office

We are currently well stocked
with olive oil.

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8

Olive Wood Hearts

Need a nice gift for Christmas? To purchase olive wood hearts (\$5.00 each) contact micah@northfieldumc.org. These hearts are being sold in support of the olive wood carvers of Bethlehem who are suffering from the lack of tourism.



Advent Creche displays

MICAH's Advent mission this year is to bring awareness to the plight of modern day Bethlehem and Palestine through a series of nativity displays in the Narthex at NUMC. Beginning December 1 and continuing through the Advent season, you are invited to browse the displays and reflect upon the first Christmas scene in Bethlehem which is in stark contrast to the modern day experience in Palestine. Let us not forget the plight of the Palestinian people in the Holy Land. If you have a nativity scene you would like to add to the Advent season displays, please contact micah@northfieldumc.org.



MICAH supports a local Bethlehem family

For more than a decade, MICAH has supported families in Bethlehem through the Shepherd Society. Besides the annual sponsorship, MICAH also sends a little extra gift money for birthdays and Christmas. The following are excerpts from recent letters the current family sent us recently.

From son

Dear friends, you have made my day special, and I was very happy that you remembered my thirteenth birthday. Yes, the new school year started on September third, and now I am in the eighth grade. We have begun reviewing integers and fractions as an introduction to algebra, and in science, we are currently learning about the properties of matter and the transfer of liquids. As for my passion for football, I play as an attacking midfielder, contributing to scoring and assisting goals. I thank you for your kind words, which have had a wonderful impact on my life. With love, your brother.

From dad

My friends and brothers, I hope you are all well. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued concern for my health. I am still undergoing ongoing tests, and now I am waiting for the results of the genetic test for the CALR mutation, as it is possible that the disease could progress from myelofibrosis to acute myeloid leukemia. Therefore, we are conducting all the necessary tests, but due to the limited resources available in our government hospitals. Once again, I express my gratitude to you, and I always pray for you. I kindly ask you, my brothers, to remember me in your prayers. Your loving brother.

Prayer from Sabeel.org

Last week, the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority stated that the Israeli forces have dropped more than 85,000 tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, surpassing the amount dropped during World War II. The Authority added in a statement that “the ongoing Israeli shelling of the Gaza Strip has led to the destruction of vast areas of agricultural land and the contamination of soil with toxic chemicals that will hinder farming for decades.”

Creator of the Earth, we grieve for the people of Gaza which have borne the weight of violence, and for the generations to come who may never know the land as it was. Lord, we lift up those who have cared for and loved this land for centuries, who are now left without the means to plant, to grow, or to reap. We pray for the families who relied on the soil for their sustenance, for the children who will be denied its harvest, and for all whose heritage and hopes are bound to this earth.

Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer.



Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins do not meet in December, January or February. We will meet again on March 17th to continue our study of "Boys of the Bible" Quilt Blocks.



Mission Sewing Project

Thank you to Jim and Janet Dale for organizing pick-up of items for Midwest Mission. Pictured on the day of the pick-up were Tanya Oberg (Midwest Mission board member), Jim and Lynn Gyr, Gordon and Dorothy Orde and Janet Dale.

Items donated from Mission Sewing were 15 diapers, 4 receiving blankets, 8 infant gowns and 31 book bags.

Jim and Janet Dale also collected 4 sewing machines that Midwest Mission will refurbish to be distributed in the United States and other mission sites in the world. They also collected some medical supplies and white T-shirts.

In December, Mission Sewing also donated 35 quilts to Northfield's Operation Joy.

We are always looking for more people to help meet our goals. Our next meetings to tie quilts will be on December 18th and January 29th.

We meet at 9AM in Room 120.



IT Tech Corner

By Jesse Steed

It's almost the new year again and it's time to check in on how you did last year. When I evaluate something I like to look back on how successful it was last time or how stressed out it made me feel and I vow to make it more successful or less stressful this time around.

Last year I asked you to clean out your email inbox. Just because email messages don't stack up on the dining room table doesn't mean they don't take up space. They occupy virtual file space and can reach a limit, like the 15GB in a typical Gmail account (I'm only at 14.1GB, so, totally ok still.) Email messages also occupy your headspace and pile up in your brain, potentially consuming your thoughts or slowly driving you down Stress Street until you finally reply 2 weeks later.

Some messages are simply an FYI and warrant a simple reply of thanks or acknowledgement. Others should be deleted immediately after reading (this message will self-destruct, to save me the time of hitting the delete key.)

It is OK TO DELETE MESSAGES. Even on accident. If it's important, the sender will call you or mail you a letter to follow up on your non-response (though you should reply to my messages right away, definitely.)

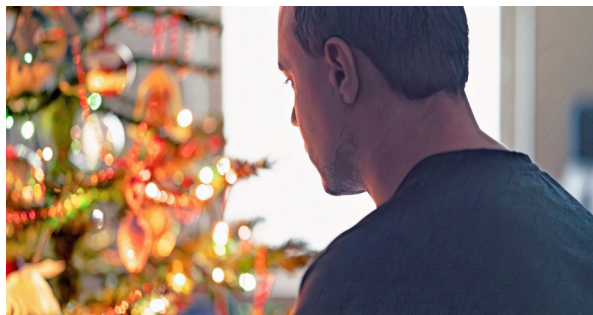
But what about those messages that require time to ponder? How can I keep a tidy inbox and still dedicate the care and attention I devote to correspondence? You can use reminder tools to help track your progress. Gmail provides tools such as Snooze, Add To Tasks, and Create Event. These built-in ways to revisit the email message make it easier to accomplish if you are unable to respond right away. Google Calendar makes it easy to schedule appointments for yourself, or deadlines to accomplish tasks. Speaking of tasks, instead of creating a calendar event, make it a task! Google Tasks roll along each day until you complete them, so you have the constant nagging reminder of that thing you promised yourself you would do.

There are any number of reminder and progress tracking apps and tools to help keep your inbox tidy. May the new year give you hope, less stress, and more happiness online.



Notes from the Parish Nurse

As we prepare our hearts and homes for the holidays, we are often overcome by the stresses of the season. I would like to share the following thoughts with you in the hope that as individuals and families we can truly prepare for the coming of the Christ Child and enjoy the holidays in good health. The holidays should revolve around the *inner* things. They should be seen as a time when we can relax our bodies, calm our minds, and refresh our souls. But society would have us focus almost exclusively on the *outer* things. And instead of encouraging us to do *less*, it begs us to do *more*. This year can be different. We can make a conscious decision to fill pre-Christmas days with thoughtfulness, leisure, and balance. Then our desire for a Christ-centered Christmas filled with warmth, harmony, and love will be realized. Here are some ideas on how you can make this your *best* holiday ever.



BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- You have the right to take care of yourself: to eat right, exercise, and get enough rest.
- You have the right to have mixed emotions: happy, sad, frustrated, guilty, afraid, thankful.
- You have the right to have solitude: for planning, reflecting, relaxing, or praying.
- You have the right not to accept some or all of your party/activity invitations.
- You have the right to ask for support from friends, family, church, and/or community.
- You have the right to give gifts that are within your holiday budget.
- You have the right to say no to alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, and a second piece of pie.
- You have the right not to ride with a drunk driver.
- You have the right to take away the keys of a drunk friend or relative and to call a taxi.
- You have the right to smile at harried salesclerks and angry drivers, and to give them a **PEACE** of your mind.

In the end, these things matter most: How well did you love? How fully did you live? How deeply did you learn to let go and let Christ live through you? Blessings for a Joyous Christmas!

Whether we write them out, or just think about them, most of us make resolutions because we can't help but be inspired by the fresh beginnings of a new year. Making resolutions brings with it thoughts of past failures and guarded hopes for the future.

HOW TO MAKE RESOLUTIONS "FAIL-PROOF"

1. Keep goals realistic by setting ones that you can reach. Don't set yourself up for failure!
2. Be specific about your goals. Say, "I will lose one pound per week until I reach my goal."
3. Develop a plan for how you will reach your goals. Write down strategies and resources. Remember that prayer is a powerful resource.
4. Find a partner, as moral support can be a big help in reaching your goals. Don't forget that Jesus makes an excellent support person.
5. Keep track of your progress so you can see changes a day or a week at a time.
6. Think of each day as a new beginning. Resolutions don't need to be kept for 365 consecutive days, but for just one day at a time.
7. Do your best and leave the rest to God. Enjoy the knowledge that all things are in the hands of our loving Lord.



May the Lord bless all of our good intentions. And may you and your loved ones experience wholeness and joy in the New Year.



United
Women
in Faith

UW Faith Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale 12/1

United Women in Faith: Meeting Dates

December 2, 2024, January 6, 2025 – UWF Executive Board meeting – 10:00 am Fellowship Hall.

December 9, 2024, January 13, 2025 - Esther Circle – 1:00 pm Kildahl, 888 Cannon Valley Drive

No meetings until March 2025 - Mugs and Muffins

Website: UW Faith.org – National UW Faith

mnconfumw.com – Minnesota UW Faith

On our cold winter days spend some time reading the great books in the UW Faith reading library. Find them on the cart to the left, in our church library. Children's books are there, and some are great for youth readers, too. Reading allows us to travel the world, and books in our 2025 Reading Program offer a wide variety of opportunities to do so.

In Abi Dare's novel **THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE** you learn about a 14 year old girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so she can escape a life of poverty and help other girls like her do the same.

ROUGH SLEEPERS:..URGENT MISSION TO BRING HEALING TO HOMELESS PEOPLE. This book shares the powerful tale of one doctor who made a difference by helping to create a program to care for Boston's homeless community. This program offers medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor and friendship to some of the city's most endangered citizens.

GIRLS IN THE WILD FIG TREE: HOW I FOUGHT TO SAVE MYSELF, MY SISTER AND THOUSANDS OF GIRLS WORLDWIDE. This memoir from Kenyan human rights activist Nice Leng'ete shares how she went from a heartbroken child and community outcast, to a leader of the Maasai. She works to end female genital mutilation and replace it with alternative rites of passage.

RAISE YOUR VOICE: WHY WE STAY SILENT AND HOW TO SPEAK UP. Author Kathy Khang addresses what it looks like to raise our voice in a culture that often encourages silence – particularly when race, ethnicity and gender are factors. Khang offers insights on when and how to speak, how to hear God's invitation to steward our authentic voice and how to communicate the good news in a messed up world.

THE LIGHT WE CARRY: OVERCOMING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES. Michelle Obama shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world. She opens a frank dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness?

VIRAL JUSTICE: HOW WE GROW THE WORLD WE WANT. This book is a sweeping and deeply personal exploration of how we can transform society through the choices we make every day. Vividly recounting her personal experiences and those of her family, the author shows how seemingly minor decisions and habits could spread virally and have exponentially positive effects. **The United Women of Faith mobile cart.**

Anyone is welcome to borrow a book, from the United Women in Faith cart in the library, by signing it out in the 3 ring binder and signing it back in when you return the book. Check Us Out!

Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale December 1, 2024 – We welcome the creations of men, women, and younger crafters to fill out the offerings for this sale. Questions? Call or email Lin Wolf – 612-532-1467 or lin_wolf@charter.net Proceeds to KC3 (Kids Creating Community Through Christ) bus and other children and youth activities.

Announcements

Join us for fellowship and coffee in the Fellowship Hall following worship every Sunday!

For Sunday 9:30 am livestreamed worship service, visit our website: northfieldumc.org



Aluminum Cans for Operation Backpack

Collect your aluminum cans and place in the container behind the church kitchen. All proceeds from the cans go towards Operation Backpack.



Advent Service of Peace & Healing

An Advent Service of Peace & healing will be held on Wednesday, December 18th.

Sometimes called a "Blue Christmas" worship service, this annual event will take place at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 418 East Sumner Street in Northfield, at 4:00 pm. It is sponsored by the United Methodist Church and St. Peter's Church and also supported by the Northfield Grief Support Coalition Community Support and Outreach. Pastors David Weeks and Donna Dempewolf will preside.

The musical prelude will begin at 3:45 pm. All persons are invited to experience this solace before Christmas.

Card Making with Margie

Tuesday, December 17th and January 21st
2:30-4:00 pm, in classroom #120

Cost: \$10 to cover supplies.

Join Margie Brockton for a fun time of making greeting cards. She will have all the supplies needed.

Call 507-649-2324 to register.



Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday,
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday, 8:00 am - noon

The church office will be closed on the following dates:

December 24th - January 1st and
January 20th (Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday)

2025 Offering Envelopes

Using your numbered offering envelopes helps the counters and the office correctly credit your contributions to you.

The 2025 offering envelopes will be available for pickup towards the middle of December. Watch for them on the table outside the church office.

If you have not had numbered envelopes in the past and would like to receive some please contact Sandy in the church office at 507-645-5689.

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

February Herald Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February issue of the Herald Newsletter is:

Noon on Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Please submit your items for the newsletter in a digital format (word document) to northfieldumc@gmail.com.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Year End Giving Statements

The annual giving statements for 2024 will be mailed in January 2025.

If you would like a statement sent to you in the month of December to review before the end of the year please contact the church office at northfieldumc@gmail.com and a statement will be either mailed or emailed to you.

Everyone will receive a final 2024 giving statement in January 2025.

Because every picture has a story to tell...



Over 80 kids enjoyed the treats and games at the annual NUMC Trunk or Treat event held on Sunday, October 27th. Thank you to the folks who got creative with their costumes and car trunks to participate in this years event!



It was a great family time at the annual pumpkin carving party held during Super Wednesday on October 30th. Once again folks enjoyed the “you bring the pumpkin, leave us the mess”.



Give us this day our daily bread. Impromptu food drive for the Community Action Center.



NUMC MICAH folks and friends standing for Justice.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00-noon UWF Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale 9:30 Worship with Communion No Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	2 10:00 UWF Board mtg. 3:00-8:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation	3 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-3:00 Community Reservation	4 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Hanging of the Greens Handbell Choir check with your leader for rehearsal info	5 8:00-3:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation	6 8:00 Men's Breakfast	7 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
8 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation	9 10:00 MICAH mtg. 1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl 6:30 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation	10 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-3:00 Community Reservation	11 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	12 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation 4:00-8:00 Community Reservation	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast	14 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation 10:30-12:30 Community Reservation
15 9:30 Worship - Children's Christmas Sing 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	16 7:00 Community Reservation	17 9:00 Bible Study 2:00-3:00 Community Reservation 2:30 Card Making with Margie 7:00 Facilities Team Mtg.	18 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Children's Christmas Pageant Handbell Choir check with your leader for rehearsal info 4:00 Advent Service of Peace & Healing at St. Peter's Lutheran Church	19 12:00 Community Reservation 7:00 Renewal via zoom	20 8:00 Men's Breakfast	21 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
22 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	23 7:00 Community Reservation	24 4:30 Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 Christmas Eve Worship Church Office Closed	25 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation No Super Wednesday Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 8:00 Men's Breakfast Church Office Closed	28 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
29 9:30 Worship No Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	30 7:00 Community Reservation Church Office Closed	31 9:00 Bible Study Church Office Closed				

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation No Super Wednesday Church Office Closed	2 12:00 Community Reservation 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking	3 8:00 Men's Breakfast	4 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
5 9:30 Worship with Communion 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	6 10:00 UWF Board Mtg 7:00 Community Reservation	7 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-11:30 Playtime for Toddlers 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking 2:00-3:00 Community Reservation	8 9:00 Mission Sewing 12:00-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	9 10:30 Community Reservation 12:00 Community Reservation 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast	11 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
12 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 6:00-8:00 Community Reservation	13 10:00 MICAH mtg. 1:00 Esther Circle - Kildahl 6:30 Community Reservation 7:00 Community Reservation	14 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-11:30 Playtime for Toddlers 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking 2:00-3:00 Community Reservation	15 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	16 12:00 Community Reservation 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking 7:00 Renewal via zoom	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast	18 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
19 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall 10:45 Adult Forum - Cynthia Wilson, NAACP	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Church Office Closed 7:00 Community Reservation	21 9:00 Bible Study No Playtime for Toddlers Noon - February Herald Newsletter deadline 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking 2:00-3:00 Community Reservation 2:30 Card Making with Margie 7:00 Facilities Mtg.	22 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday No KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	23 12:00 Community Reservation 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast	25 8:30-11:00 Community Reservation
26 9:30 Worship 10:00 Children's Church 10:30 Coffee in Fellowship Hall	27 7:00 Community Reservation	28 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-11:30 Playtime for Toddlers 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking 2:00-3:00 Community Reservation	29 9:00 Mission Sewing 11:30-1:00 Community Reservation Super Wednesday 3:30 KC3 5:30 Shared Meal 5:30 NUMC Board mtg. 6:15 Adult Choir 6:30 Handbell Choir 6:30 Youth Fellowship	30 12:00 Community Reservation 1:30-3:30 Methodist Mile Indoor Walking	31 8:00 Men's Breakfast	

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

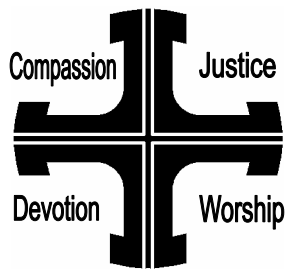
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**E - NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP**



Northfield United Methodist Church offers an electronic option for our monthly newsletter. By having our newsletter available electronically, we will save costs on paper, postage and copier usage. The newsletter will still be available to those who want to receive a hard copy in the mail.

For those that sign up, you will receive an e-mail directing you to a link to view the newsletter. If you have more than one member in the household that would like to receive this e-mail, please list them also.

Please cut out this form, fill in the information and place it in the basket in the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Please print clearly! Thank you!

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Our Church Staff

Pastor	Donna Dempewolf
Parish Nurse	Ruth Kruse
Office Administrator	Sandy Vesledahl
Child Care Provider	Kathryn Steed
Interim Youth Director	Kristen Twitchell
Children's Ministry	Gregory Ennis
NUMC Band	Dave Miller
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Adult Choir	Deborah Rae Miller
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Information & Worship Technology Consultant	Jesse Steed
Treasurer	David Wolf <small>(Volunteer)</small>

Retired Clergy: Wayne Abdella, Carl Caskey,
Richard Collman, Jeanne Martin, Dick Waters,
Mary Keen, Gordon Orde, Clay Oglesbee,
Melvin Henrichs, Dana Hauck